

**BOARD OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting:**

**Thursday:**

**February 19, 2015:**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Human Relations Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the City Commission Room at City Hall at 12:00 o'clock p.m., Thursday, February 19, 2015.

The Human Relations Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Rachel Hoffman, Abdiwali Sharif-Abdinasir, David Lanpher, Keith Bjornson, Laetitia Hellerud

Absent: Aaron Hill, Tanya RedRoad, Waseem Altaf

**Item 1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Hoffman welcomed Members to the meeting and introductions were made.

**Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda**

Mr. Bjornson moved the Order of Agenda be approved as presented. Second by Mr. Lanpher. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 3. Minutes: Regular Meeting of January 15, 2015**

Mr. Lanpher moved the minutes of the January 15, 2015 Human Relations Commission meeting be approved. Second by Mr. Sharif-Abdinasir. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 4. Presentation by Pearl Walker, MPH with NDSU on "Rapid Response Group Anti-Racism"**

Pearl Walker, Project Coordinator at North Dakota State University (NDSU) for the Idea Network for Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Program, gave a presentation on a group that was recently formed called "Rapid Response Group Anti-Racism". She stated the purpose of this support group is to respond to issues of inequality by making people aware of the history in the area and developing a response to potential issues. She added it would be beneficial if the Human Relations Commission (HRC) and this support group could collaborate and work together on eliminating the gap in social justice. She said more information will be forwarded to the HRC Members on this group.

**Item 5. Public Comment (12:10)**

No public comments were heard.

**Item 6. Location of Upcoming HRC Meetings**

Cultural Planner Willard Yellow Bird stated the construction around city hall will make parking difficult for public meetings; therefore, meetings after May 1 will be held at the Fargo Park District Depot located at 701 Main Avenue.

**Item 7. Review Funding Requests**

The following funding requests were summarized as follows:

- 1) Metro Area Mayors Committee funding request for \$125 pertains to sponsoring a table at the awards banquet, as well as providing funds for individuals with disabilities who need financial assistance going back to work or staying on the job.

Mr. Lanpher moved the funding request in the amount of \$125 be approved. Second by Mr. Bjornson. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 8. Other Business and Announcements**

The following announcements were made as follows:

- 1) Senate Bill 2279, the non-discrimination legislative bill to amend the North Dakota Human Rights Act and the North Dakota Fair Housing Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity, passed through the Senate by a vote of 25-22 and it will now go to the House. The North Dakota Human Rights Coalition is having a fundraiser to help support this bill on Monday, March 2 from 5-7 p.m. at the Hotel Donaldson in Fargo.
- 2) The FM Pride Collective and Community Center is having an open house from 5-8 p.m. this evening, February 19 at their location at 1105 1st Avenue South.
- 3) The Rape and Abuse Crisis Center (317 8th Street North) will be having a focus group on February 25 from 12-1:30 p.m.
- 4) Lutheran Social Services New American Building Bridges – “We Journey Together” will be on March 24-25 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center (3808 13th Avenue South).
- 5) A Powwow will be held on March 28 at the Memorial Auditorium at Concordia College from 12:30 p.m.-10 p.m.

Cultural Liaison Officer Cristie Jacobsen stated a couple of items were discussed regarding participation in the national campaign for Welcome Week:

- 1) Funding for the logistics of National Welcome Week on September 12-20, 2015, including the cost of international flags to display downtown along Broadway. She stated the costs of the flags vary anywhere from \$30-\$60 depending on the complexity of the flag, in addition to purchasing a pole. She added a minimum of 50 flags were being looked at, which estimate to about \$2500-\$3000 and said these flags could be used for other events in the community.
- 2) Funding for the international youth soccer tournament was discussed concluding funding the entire tournament would cost about \$2500-\$3000, which would include field rental.

Mr. Lanpher moved the Human Relations Commission work on funding the flags for National Welcome Week. Second by Ms. Hellerud. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Ms. Hellerud stated Darci Asche, Lutheran Social Services New Americans, will be organizing a discussion on March 25 from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. regarding integration including the parallelism among different communities and the richness of diversity. She inquired if any Human Relations Commission members would like to participate in this discussion and added she can send more information on this discussion later.

Mayor Tim Mahoney stated Fargo has been asked to take part in an event on April 2 called "Everyone Matters Day". He said this is being done to recognize the joint effort by every city in the country to declare everybody matters by showcasing diversity within various communities. He inquired if the Human Relations Commission would like to participate in planning an event that could be held at a school or another place in the community to help everyone understand the importance of diversity.

**Item 9.                      Adjourn**

The time at adjournment was 1:00 p.m.